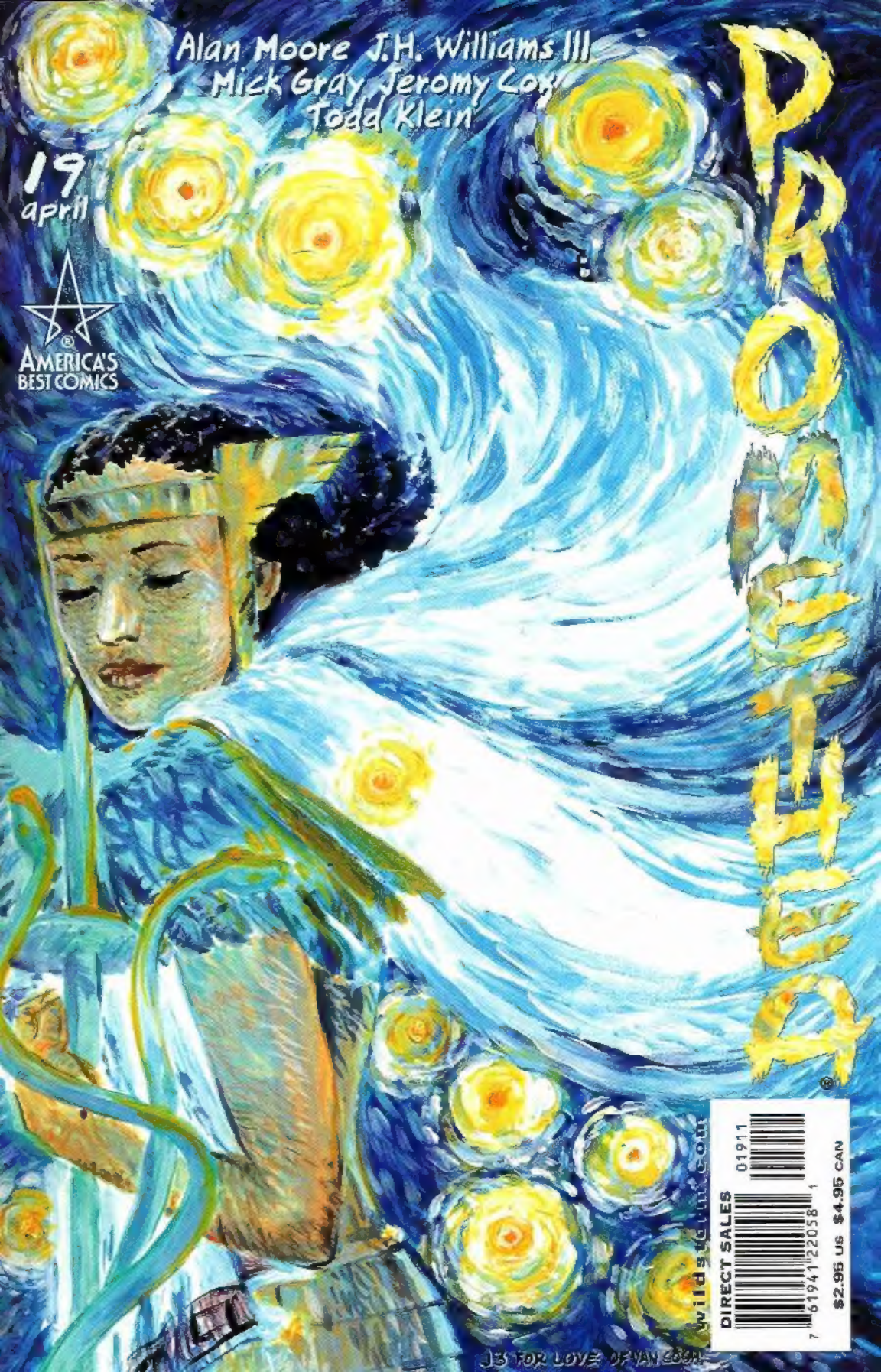
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JB FOR LOVE OF VAN GOGH

THE IMMATERIA, OFF ROUTE 32, DISTRICT OF STACIA VANDERVEER'S MIND:
SO, UH... HOW DID YOU FEEL AFTER EATING ALL THOSE DEMONS? I THOUGHT I WAS GOING TO HURL.
TO BE HONEST, SWEETIE, I FEEL ABSOLUTELY SMASHING.
INCIDENTALLY, AREN'T THESE ROOMS NICE?
UH, YEAH, KINDA. ARE THESE THE ROOMS YOU HAD BACK IN THE TWENTIES OR WHENEVER?
MORE A FANCIFUL MEMORY, REALLY. IT'S THE APARTMENT I COULDN'T AFFORD.
REGARDING THOSE DEMONS: ALL WE DID WAS ACCEPT THEM AS PARTS OF US, YOU KNOW.
I IMAGINE THAT'S WHY I'M FEELING SO MARVELOUS. IT'S VERY EMPOWERING, DON'T YOU THINK?
WHEN WE FINALLY FACE UP TO WHAT WE ARE?
I, UH, I, UH...
Y-YOU KNOW, I'M, UH, I-I'M SORTA WORRIED ABOUT SOPHIE. TH-THAT VISION WE SAW...
OH, I'M SURE SHE AND BARBARA ESCAPED THEIR PREDICAMENT JUST SWIMMINGLY. AT MOST, SOPHIE'S QUEST WILL BE DELAYED A LITTLE.
FRANKLY, SHE CAN STAY AWAY AS LONG AS SHE LIKES. I'M RATHER ENJOYING OUR LITTLE PARTNERSHIP...
...JUST LIKE YOU ARE.
OH GOLLY.
NUKE POP DISCS
THE LIMP
MMNNN...
ACKUTH, NEW YORK CITY.

OHHHH...
OOHMM.
...is "TEXTure., with fast-breaking news of last night's crisis at the MAYORAL offices.
THE MAYOR TODAY
The EVIL EIGHT, captured at the scene, are all now in custody except JELLYHEAD II, who melted.
THEN I TOLD THE PROTESTER, "YEAH, THE FUR'S REAL. SO WHAT?"
The Five Swell Guys were beaten up again, office workers were traumatized, and Mayor Sonny Baskerville seems to have reverted to his former selves.
THE LAING CLINIC
All of this appears to be the work of intriguing new N.Y. science-heroine PROMETHEA. This is "TEXTure.
TEXTure.
In other news, two leading British acts have announced a double-bill performance later this year.
Sulk-rock legend LES MISERABLE will headline at N.Y. venue STALIN'S (formerly TROISKY'S)...
...supported by LIMP (formerly THE Limp) with frontman Monty (formerly Montelimar) Sykes.
"TEXTure.
The recently spiritually-converted Sykes described his new work as "Northern Light Fantastic Voyage to Arcturus, Ian."
Les Miserable's only statement was "The one thing worse than being stalked about is NOT being stalked about."
This is "TEXTure.
WELL? HOW IS HE?

I'M AFRAID MR. DRUCKER'S THE SAME AS HE'S BEEN THIS LAST THIRTY YEARS, AGENT BALL.
I HAD HOPES FOR THESE NEW ANTI-PSYCHOTIC DRUGS, BUT THERE'S NO RESPONSE. I'M STARTING TO THINK HE'S BEYOND BETTER LIVING THROUGH CHEMISTRY.
CAN WE SEE HIM?
SURE. HE'S RELATIVELY CALM RIGHT NOW, SO I HAD HIM WAIT OFF THE WARD HERE.
DENNIS? I'VE GOT TWO LOVELY LADIES HERE. THEY'VE COME TO VISIT YOU AGAIN. DO YOU WANT TO TALK TO THEM?
WHY WOULDN'T I? YOU THINK I'M A FAG?
COME ON, DEN. DON'T START. YOU KNOW I DON'T THINK THAT.
OKAY, LADIES. HE'S ALL YOURS.
REMEMBER US, AGENT DRUCKER? WE'RE AGENTS BREUGHEL AND BALL. WE CALLED LAST WEEK.
WE WANT TO ASK YOU SOME MORE QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS PROMETHEA WOMAN...
OH, SHE WAS A WOMAN ALL RIGHT. DON'T YOU EVER DOUBT THAT. A REAL WOMAN.
BUT YOU STILL GOT CAREERS IN THE BUREAU. YOU GOT YEARS AHEAD OF YOU.
TRUST ME. YOU DON'T WANT TO GO THERE.
WHERE IS "THERE," AGENT DRUCKER?
"THERE?" THAT'S EASY.
SEE, "HERE," THIS WORLD, OUR LIVES, ALL THIS IS JUST SOME KIND OF A DREAM. AND "THERE"...
"THERE" IS WHAT WE WAKE UP TO.

PROMETHEA

FATHERLAND

Created by Moore & Williams III

Alan Moore	J.H. Williams III	Mick Gray	Jeromy Cox	Todd Klein	Pozner & Quinn	Scott Dunbier
writer	pencils & painting	inks	colors	letters	assistant editors	editor

JIM LEE Editorial Director • JOHN NEE VP & General Manager • SCOTT DUNBIER Group Editor

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GOD, THIS BLUE. I FEEL RICH JUST LOOKING AT IT. I FEEL LIKE...I DON'T KNOW. LIKE I'VE ARRIVED.
YEAH. OR THAT I'VE COME HOME OR SOMETHING. BUT IT'S ALL CLOUDY AND VAPOROUS...
YEAH, WELL, YOU'RE GONNA GET THAT, THE HIGHER YOU CLIMB THE TREE. THERE AIN'T MUCH £$%&IN' FORM ONCE YOU GET UP PAST HOD.
IT'S LIKE, THE FURTHER UP YOU GO, THE LESS THERE IS TO SEE, AND THE MORE THERE IS TO FEEL AND UNDERSTAND.
I CAN'T IMAGINE MUCH THAT'S HIGHER THAN THIS. THIS IS THE FOURTH SPHERE, RIGHT?
"CHESED," THERE ON THE ARCH ABOVE THE JUPITER SYMBOL. I THINK IT MEANS MERCY.
Y'KNOW, I JUST WORKED OUT WHY THIS PLACE FEELS LIKE HOME.
IT'S THAT SMELL, LIKE WHEN MY DAD WAS PLANING WOOD...
THAT'S THE CEDAR INCENSE THEY BURN HERE. PLUS, Y'KNOW, THIS IS A KINDA FATHERLY-TYPE PLACE.

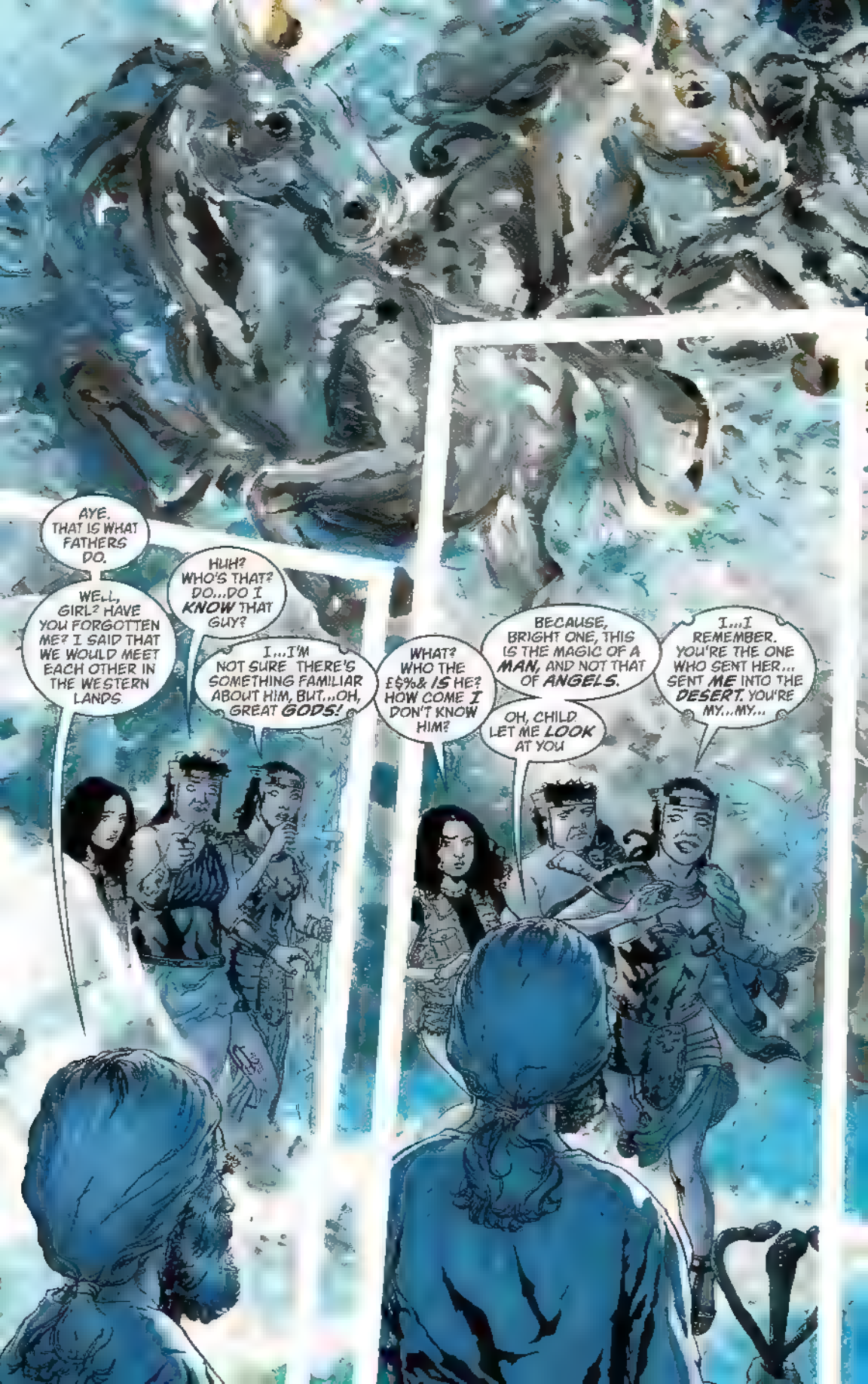
YOU'RE RIGHT. DESPITE EVERYTHING BEING MADE FROM CLOUD, IT ALL FEELS SOLID AND REASSURING, LIKE IT WOULD PROTECT YOU.
SURE. IT'S LIKE A DAD, ONLY IT'S DADDY WARBUCKS. SOMEBODY RICH AND SUCCESSFUL...
YEAH, IT'S PRETTY £$%&IN' PATRICIAN ALL RIGHT. AN' BEIN' THE FOURTH SPHERE, YOU CAN BET IT'S FOUR-SQUARE £$%&IN' SOLID, TOO.
SEE, FOUR, THAT'S LIKE THE MINIMUM NUMBER OF POINTS YOU NEED TO DEFINE A SOLID THREE-DIMENSIONAL OBJECT, SAY A PYRAMID.
WHEN THE ENERGY OF GOD POURS DOWN INTO BEING, THIS IS THE FIRST PLACE IT TRULY MATERIALIZES.
WE'RE RIGHT AT THE TOP OF THE £$%&IN' UNIVERSE, WHERE EVERYTHING'S BORN INTO EXISTENCE, AND IT'S THIS PLACE THAT NURTURES AND PROTECTS IT.
THIS IS THE SHELTERING SKY.

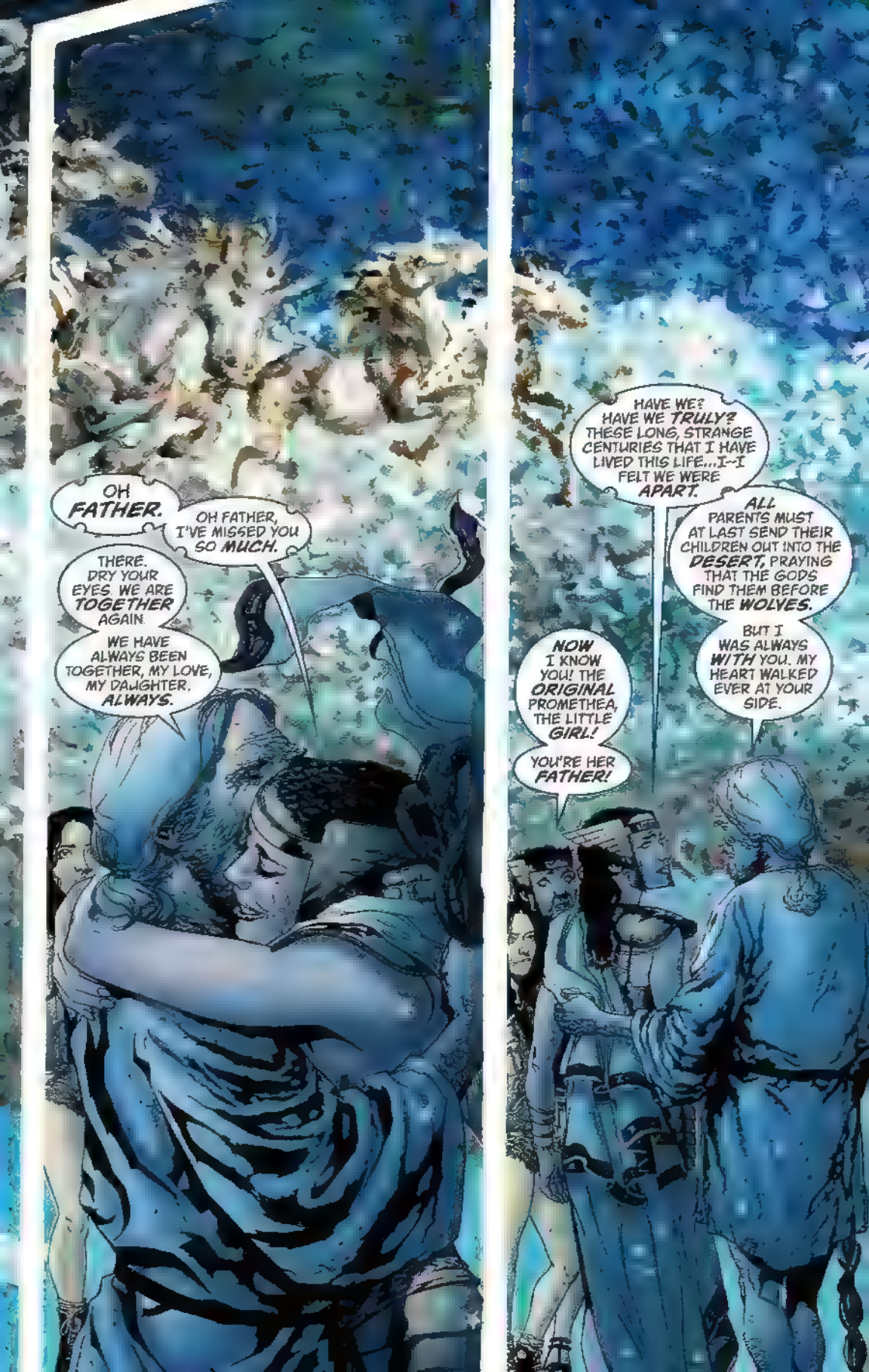
SO I SUPPOSE THIS SPHERE IS WHERE ALL THE SKY-GODS AND ALL-FATHERS ARE REPRESENTED. ZEUS, THOR, JUPITER, INDRA AND SO ON...
I FEEL SORT OF... REASSURED. LIKE I'M SAFE WITH GROWNUPS OR SOMETHING. IT'S THIS SAPPHIRE LIGHT...
YEAH. S'LIKE THIS £$%&IN' MALLARME POEM I REMEMBER: "THE AZURE! THE AZURE! THE AZURE!"
COME ON. FOLLOW ME.
WHAT ARE THESE BEADS? THEY'RE SO POLISHED I CAN SEE EVERY DETAIL OF MY RE-FLECTION.
THIS IS INDRA'S NET.
SEE, INDRA, HE'S THE HINDU SKY-GOD, OKAY? AND HIS NET, IT'S THIS INFINITE MESH OF GLEAMING BEADS...
AND IN EVERY SINGLE BEAD, ALL THE OTHER BEADS ARE REFLECTED, ALONG WITH THE REFLECTIONS THAT ARE IN THEM, GOING ON FOREVER.
SO, LIKE, EVERY PART COMPLETELY AND PERFECTLY REFLECTS THE WHOLE.
THAT'S INDRA'S NET...

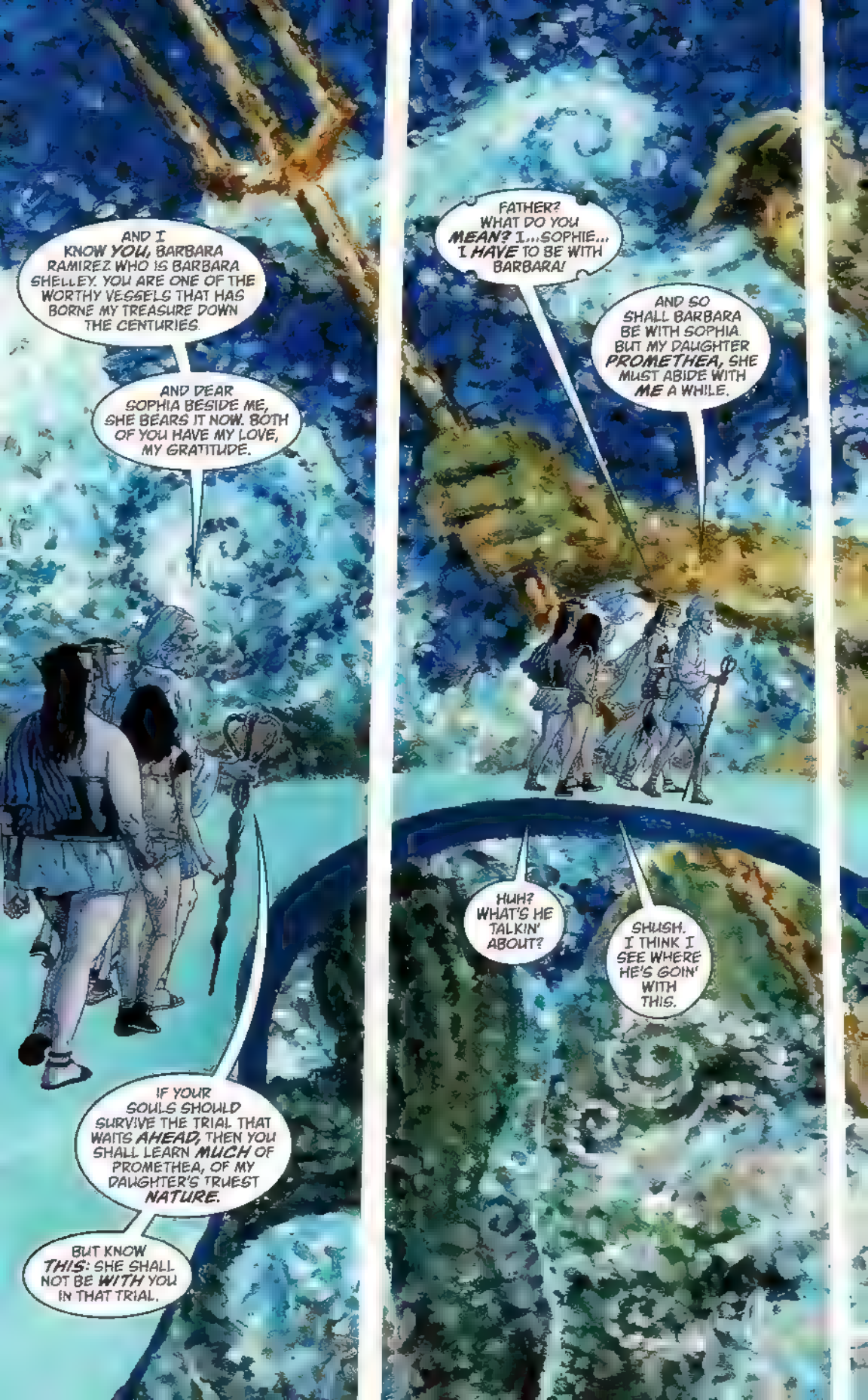
...OR REALITY, AS THEY CALL IT WHERE YOU COME FROM.
I HEAR IF YOU BREAK UP ONE OF THEM HOLOGRAM THINGS, EVERY PIECE STILL HAS THE WHOLE IMAGE IN IT. OR IT'S LIKE WITH THE KABAL-LAH...
THE TREE OF LIFE, YEAH, SURE, THAT'S A MAP OF THE WHOLE UNIVERSE. IT'S ALSO A MAP OF WHAT'S INSIDE EACH OF US.
"AS ABOVE, SO BELOW," SEE? ON ALL THESE DIFFERENT £$%&IN' LEVELS, EXISTENCE REFLECTS ITSELF.

I LIKE THAT. IT MAKES ME FEEL LIKE I'M... INCLUDED. LIKE EVERYONE'S INCLUDED
SO EXISTENCE IS ALL ONE THING? EVERYTHING IN IT, WE'RE ALL PART OF SOME BIG... I DON'T KNOW. SOME VAST FLOCK? SOME IMMENSE ORGAN-ISM?
YEAH. AND LOVED. AND FORGIVEN.
THIS IS BIGGER THAN THE LOVE PEOPLE HAVE FOR EACH OTHER
THIS IS THE UN-CONDITIONAL LOVE OF THE UNIVERSE FOR ITS CHILD-REN. FOR ITSELF.
AND ALL THESE DIFFERENT LEVELS...THEY'RE ALL SOMEHOW LEVELS OF OURSELVES, RIGHT? DEMONS, ANGELS, GODS...
YEAH. YOU SAID DEMONS WERE A PART OF US, AND, LIKE, YOU'RE MY GUARDIAN ANGEL, SO YOU'RE A PART OF ME...
SURE. DEMONS ARE JUST YOUR LOWEST DRIVES, GETTING OUT OF HAND WHEN THEY SHOULD BE WORKIN' FOR YA. US ANGELS, WE'RE YOUR HIGHEST DRIVES.
AS FOR THE DEITIES, MAYBE THEY'RE PART OF YOU, MAYBE YOU'RE A FALLEN PART OF THEM, BUT IT DON'T MATTER. EVERY-THING'S PART OF GOD.

AN' HERE, IN THIS RICH BLUE, WEALTHY WIT' STARS, HERE'S WHERE YOU FEEL IT. WHERE YOU KNOW IT.
THAT MERCY. THAT VISION OF LOVE. Y'KNOW, THIS £$%&IN' UNIVERSE, IT REALLY TRIES ITS £$%&IN' HARDEST FOR US.
M-MY DAD, HE WORKED ON A FARM. HE SAID, SURE, SOMETIMES ANIMALS DIED, BUT THE FARMERS HAD CARED. THEY'D TRIED THEIR BEST, Y'KNOW?
IT'S...IT'S LIKE WE ALL HAVE TO PROTECT EVERYTHING, BECAUSE IT'S ALL PRECIOUS. IT'S ALL US.
YEAH. THAT'S CHESED. THAT'S JUPITER. YOU'RE GETTIN' THE IDEA.
EXISTENCE LOVES US. IF IT COULD, IT'D STOP A BULLET FOR US.
AN' IT WORKS £$%&IN' HARD TO PUT BREAD ON THE TABLE FOR US, AN' TO KEEP A £$%&IN' SKY OVER OUR HEADS.
AN' IT DOES THAT BECAUSE IT'S A FATHER, AND BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT FATHERS DO.

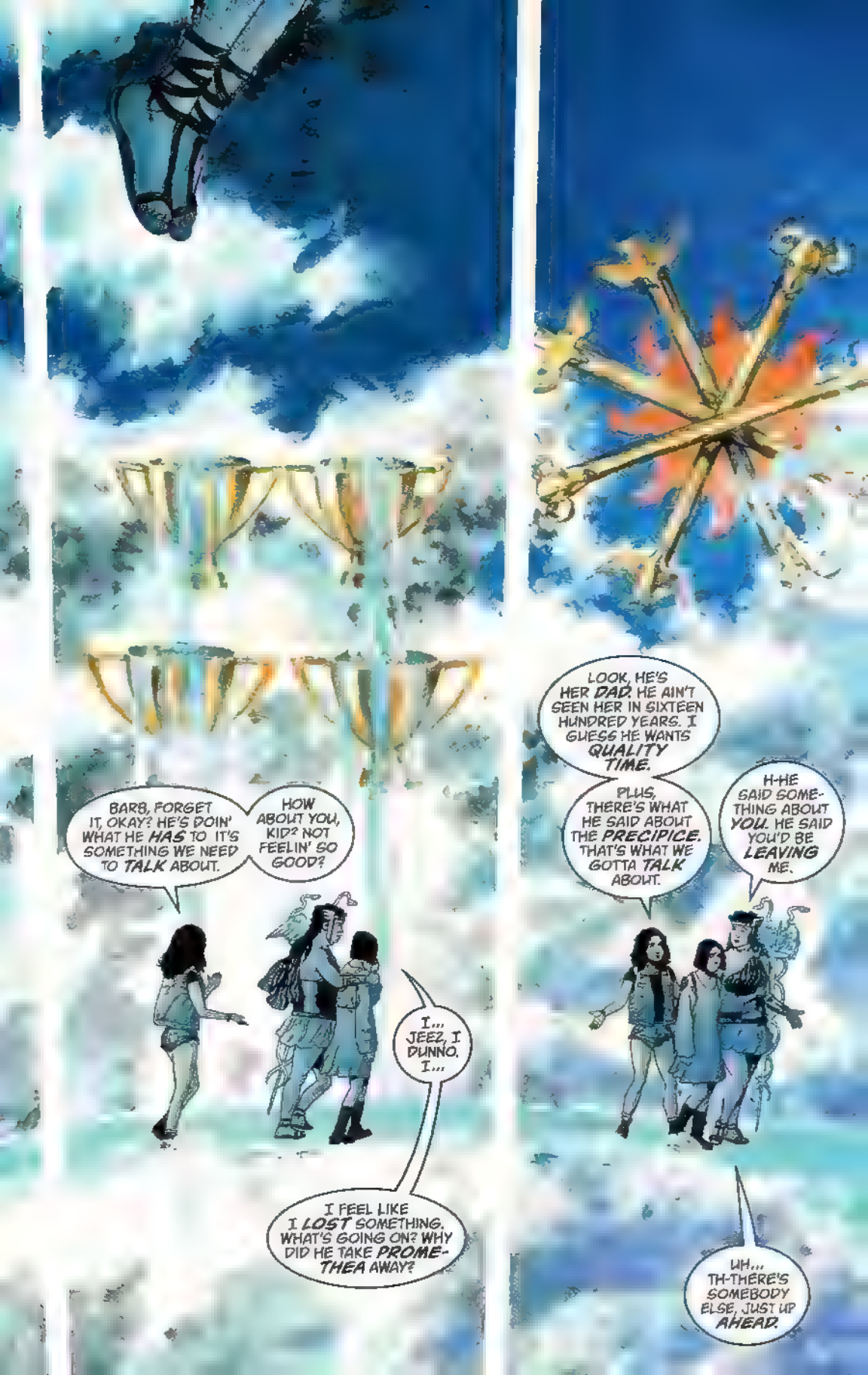

AYE. THAT IS WHAT FATHERS DO.
WELL, GIRL? HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN ME? I SAID THAT WE WOULD MEET EACH OTHER IN THE WESTERN LANDS
HUH? WHO'S THAT? DO...DO I KNOW THAT GUY?
I...I'M NOT SURE THERE'S SOMETHING FAMILIAR ABOUT HIM, BUT...OH, GREAT GODS!
WHAT? WHO THE £$%& IS HE? HOW COME I DON'T KNOW HIM?
BECAUSE, BRIGHT ONE, THIS IS THE MAGIC OF A MAN, AND NOT THAT OF ANGELS.
OH, CHILD LET ME LOOK AT YOU
I...I REMEMBER. YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SENT HER... SENT ME INTO THE DESERT. YOU'RE MY...MY...

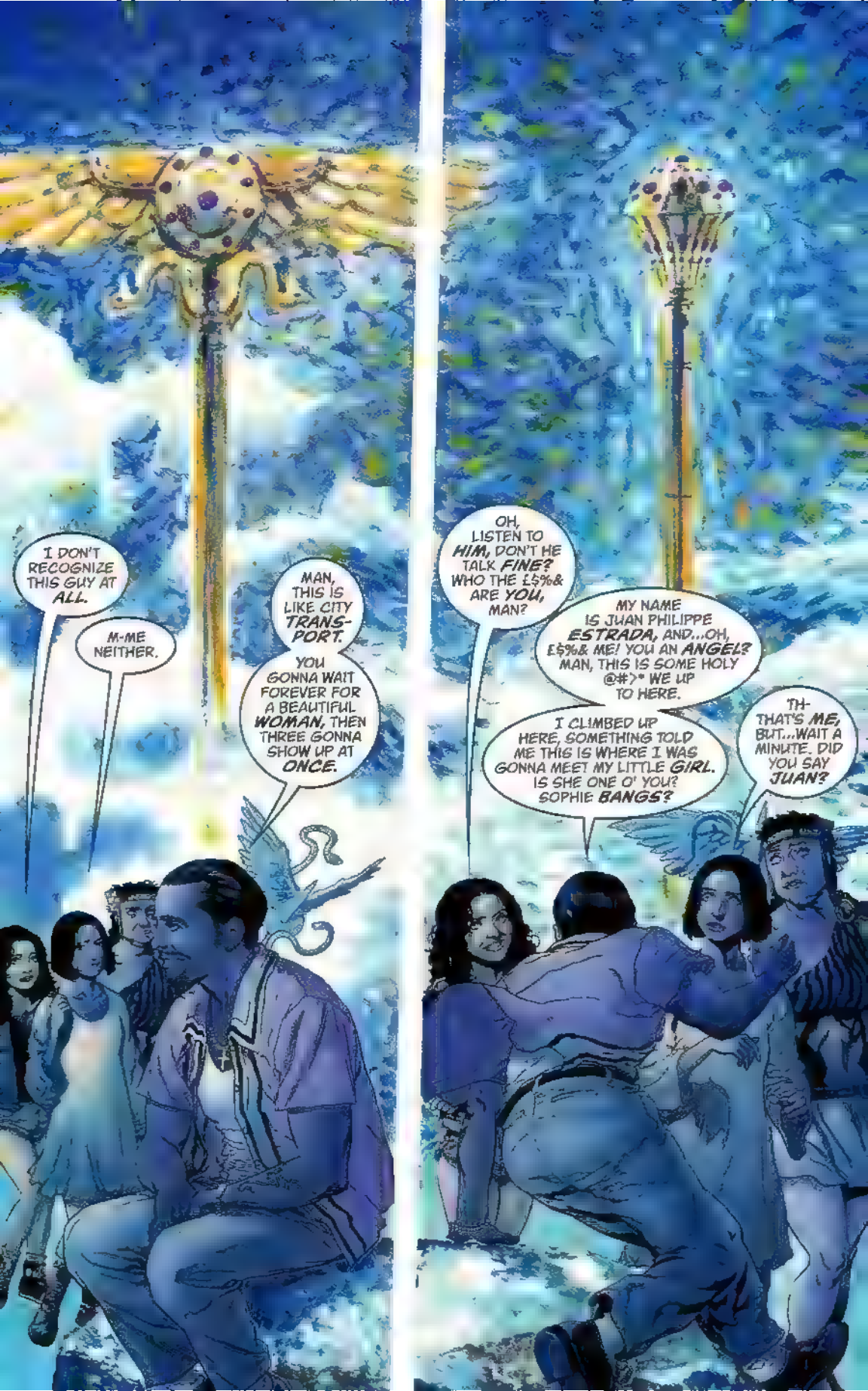

OH FATHER.
OH FATHER, I'VE MISSED YOU SO MUCH.
THERE. DRY YOUR EYES. WE ARE TOGETHER AGAIN.
WE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN TOGETHER, MY LOVE, MY DAUGHTER. ALWAYS.
HAVE WE? HAVE WE TRULY? THESE LONG, STRANGE CENTURIES THAT I HAVE LIVED THIS LIFE...I--I FELT WE WERE APART.
ALL PARENTS MUST AT LAST SEND THEIR CHILDREN OUT INTO THE DESERT, PRAYING THAT THE GODS FIND THEM BEFORE THE WOLVES.
BUT I WAS ALWAYS WITH YOU. MY HEART WALKED EVER AT YOUR SIDE.
NOW I KNOW YOU! THE ORIGINAL PROMETHEA, THE LITTLE GIRL!
YOU'RE HER FATHER!

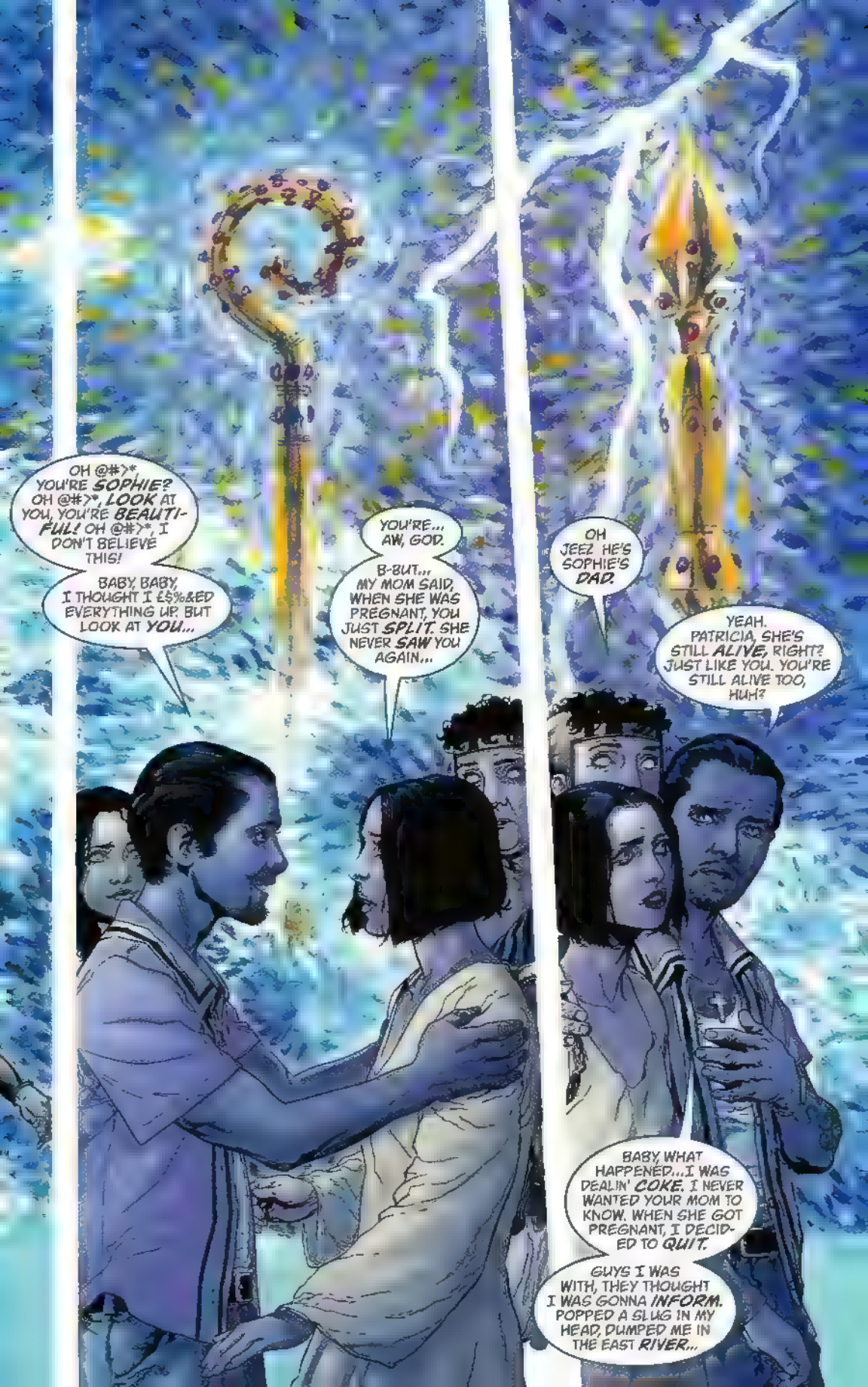

AND I KNOW YOU, BARBARA RAMIREZ WHO IS BARBARA SHELLEY. YOU ARE ONE OF THE WORTHY VESSELS THAT HAS BORNE MY TREASURE DOWN THE CENTURIES.
AND DEAR SOPHIA BESIDE ME, SHE BEARS IT NOW. BOTH OF YOU HAVE MY LOVE, MY GRATITUDE.
IF YOUR SOULS SHOULD SURVIVE THE TRIAL THAT WAITS AHEAD, THEN YOU SHALL LEARN MUCH OF PROMETHEA, OF MY DAUGHTER'S TRUEST NATURE.
BUT KNOW THIS: SHE SHALL NOT BE WITH YOU IN THAT TRIAL.
FATHER? WHAT DO YOU MEAN? I...SOPHIE... I HAVE TO BE WITH BARBARA!
AND SO SHALL BARBARA BE WITH SOPHIA. BUT MY DAUGHTER PROMETHEA, SHE MUST ABIDE WITH ME A WHILE.
HUH? WHAT'S HE TALKIN' ABOUT?
SHUSH. I THINK I SEE WHERE HE'S GOIN' WITH THIS.

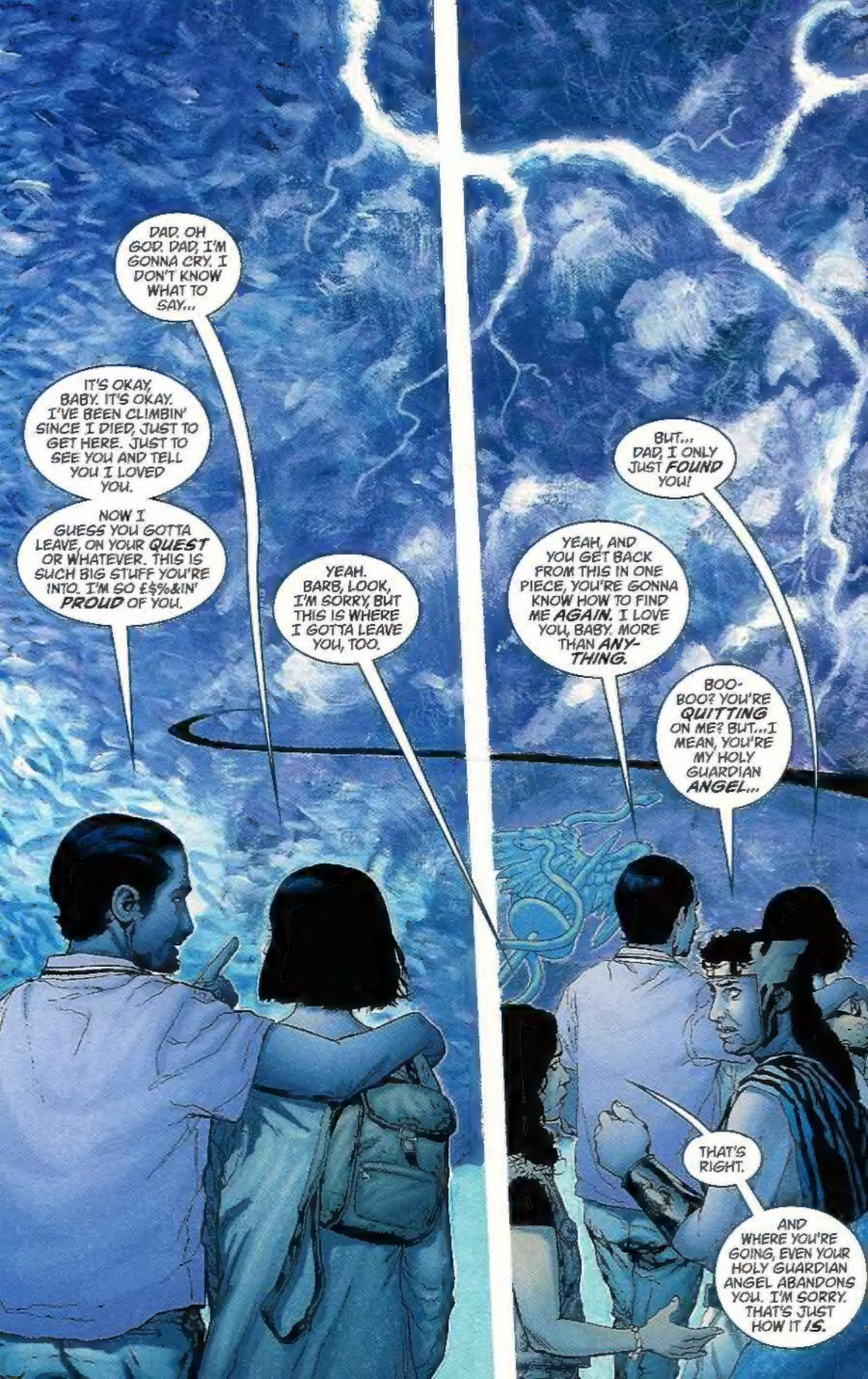
AYE, ANGEL OF BARBARA RAMIREZ. YOU UNDERSTAND BECAUSE YOU KNOW THE PAINFUL DUTY YOU YOURSELF MUST SOON NOW UNDERTAKE.
SOPHIA, IT IS TIME FOR YOU TO GIVE MY DAUGHTER UP TO ME. IF YOU SURVIVE THE WASTELANDS, YOU SHALL MEET WITH HER AGAIN.
UNTIL THEN, WE HAVE MUCH TO SPEAK OF, SHE AND I.
F-FATHER? WHAT ARE YOU DOING? I-I FEEL SO STRANGE...
I AM GATHERING YOU UP, MY CHILD, AS ONCE I DID WHEN YOU WERE SMALL.
I AM GATHERING YOU UP INTO MY ARMS.
SOPHIE? WHAT'S HAPPENING?
LEAVE IT, BABYDOLL. HE KNOWS WHAT HE'S DOING.
UHHH...

SHE IS AS SHE WAS. SHE IS WITHOUT HER ANGEL, JUST AS YOUR OWN SHALL SURELY LEAVE YOU AT THE PRECIPICE AHEAD
IF YOUR LEAP BE TRUE, YOU SHALL REGAIN THESE TREASURES ON ITS FURTHEST SHORE.
MY CHILD AND I MUST LEAVE YOU HERE. GOODBYE, KIND WOMEN. GOODBYE, AND FARE YOU WELL.
HEY, WAIT! I DON'T GET ANY OF THIS! COME BACK!
THERE. NOW ALL IS AS IT MUST BE. MY CHILD AND I ARE REUNITED, AND SOPHIA IS NOW READY FOR HER TEST.
OOUGH. OUHH, GOD...
TEST? WHAT TEST?
SOPHIE, SWEETHEART, ARE YOU OKAY?


BARB, FORGET IT, OKAY? HE'S DOIN' WHAT HE HAS TO. IT'S SOMETHING WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT.
HOW ABOUT YOU, KID? NOT FEELIN' SO GOOD?
I... JEEZ, I DUNNO. I...
I FEEL LIKE I LOST SOMETHING. WHAT'S GOING ON? WHY DID HE TAKE PROMETHEA AWAY?
LOOK, HE'S HER DAD. HE AIN'T SEEN HER IN SIXTEEN HUNDRED YEARS. I GUESS HE WANTS QUALITY TIME.
PLUS, THERE'S WHAT HE SAID ABOUT THE PRECIPICE. THAT'S WHAT WE GOTTA TALK ABOUT.
H-HE SAID SOMETHING ABOUT YOU. HE SAID YOU'D BE LEAVING ME.
UH... TH-THERE'S SOMEBODY ELSE, JUST UP AHEAD.


I DON'T RECOGNIZE THIS GUY AT ALL.
M-ME NEITHER.
MAN, THIS IS LIKE CITY TRANS-PORT.
YOU GONNA WAIT FOREVER FOR A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN, THEN THREE GONNA SHOW UP AT ONCE.
OH, LISTEN TO HIM, DON'T HE TALK FINE? WHO THE £$%& ARE YOU, MAN?
MY NAME IS JUAN PHILIPPE ESTRADA, AND...OH, £$%& ME! YOU AN ANGEL? MAN, THIS IS SOME HOLY @#)* WE UP TO HERE.
I CLIMBED UP HERE, SOMETHING TOLD ME THIS IS WHERE I WAS GONNA MEET MY LITTLE GIRL. IS SHE ONE O' YOU? SOPHIE BANGS?
TH-THAT'S ME, BUT...WAIT A MINUTE. DID YOU SAY JUAN?


OH @#>*, YOU'RE SOPHIE? OH @#>*, LOOK AT YOU, YOU'RE BEAUTIFUL! OH @#>*, I DON'T BELIEVE THIS!
BABY, BABY, I THOUGHT I £$%&ED EVERYTHING UP. BUT LOOK AT YOU...
YOU'RE... AW, GOD.
B-BUT... MY MOM SAID, WHEN SHE WAS PREGNANT, YOU JUST SPLIT. SHE NEVER SAW YOU AGAIN...
OH JEEZ HE'S SOPHIE'S DAD.
YEAH. PATRICIA, SHE'S STILL ALIVE, RIGHT? JUST LIKE YOU. YOU'RE STILL ALIVE TOO, HUH?
BABY, WHAT HAPPENED...I WAS DEALIN' COKE. I NEVER WANTED YOUR MOM TO KNOW. WHEN SHE GOT PREGNANT, I DECIDED TO QUIT.
GUYS I WAS WITH, THEY THOUGHT I WAS GONNA INFORM. POPPED A SLUG IN MY HEAD, DUMPED ME IN THE EAST RIVER...


DAD. OH GOD. DAD, I'M GONNA CRY. I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY...
IT'S OKAY, BABY. IT'S OKAY. I'VE BEEN CLIMBIN' SINCE I DIED, JUST TO GET HERE. JUST TO SEE YOU AND TELL YOU I LOVED YOU.
NOW I GUESS YOU GOTTA LEAVE, ON YOUR QUEST OR WHATEVER. THIS IS SUCH BIG STUFF YOU'RE INTO. I'M SO £$%&IN' PROUD OF YOU.
YEAH. BARB, LOOK, I'M SORRY, BUT THIS IS WHERE I GOTTA LEAVE YOU, TOO.
BUT... DAD, I ONLY JUST FOUND YOU!
YEAH, AND YOU GET BACK FROM THIS IN ONE PIECE, YOU'RE GONNA KNOW HOW TO FIND ME AGAIN. I LOVE YOU, BABY. MORE THAN ANY-THING.
BOO-BOO? YOU'RE QUITTING ON ME? BUT...I MEAN, YOU'RE MY HOLY GUARDIAN ANGEL...
THAT'S RIGHT.
AND WHERE YOU'RE GOING, EVEN YOUR HOLY GUARDIAN ANGEL ABANDONS YOU. I'M SORRY. THAT'S JUST HOW IT IS.

SOPHIE, I LOVE YOU, GIRL. AND IF YOU GET BACK HOME, TELL YOUR MOM I ALWAYS LOVED HER, TOO. GOOD LUCK, SWEET-HEART.
YEAH. GOOD LUCK IN THE ABYSS, BOTH OF YOU.
C'MON, GUY. I'LL WALK WITH YOU. WE CAN TAKE THE HERMIT PATH BACK TO TIPHERETH.
DAD, WAIT! DADDY, I LOVE YOU...
COME ON, SOPHE. LEAVE IT. THEY'RE OUT OF HERE.
20
I...I FEEL BEREAVED. I...
I GUESS THAT'S WHY HER FATHER TOOK PROMETHEA AWAY FROM ME. I GUESS IT'S PART OF THIS ABYSS THING. BEING ALONE...
WHAT, ALONE SO YOUR GUARDIAN ANGEL DUMPS YOU? WHAT IS IT ABOUT THIS ABYSS PLACE, EVEN ANGELS DON'T WANNA GO THERE?
I MEAN, WHAT'S THEIR PROBLEM? ARE THEY TOO LAZY? PROUD? HIGH AND MIGHTY?

FRIGHTENING.

OH JESUS. S-SOPHIE, WHERE'S THE THING, THE TAROT PATH TAKES US UP TO SPHERE THREE?
TH-THERE ISN'T ONE. THE BRIDGE IS DOWN. I--I THINK WE'RE SUPPOSED TO JUMP.
THIS IS THE EDGE OF EXISTENCE, BARBARA. THIS IS AS FAR AS EVERYTHING GOES.
W-WE JUMP? INTO NOTHING? THAT'S WHAT MAGICIANS DO? THAT'S WHAT STEVE DID?
S-SOPHIE, I HAVE TO DO THIS, TO FIND STEVE. YOU DON'T. YOU CAN TURN BACK...
NOT AND LIVE WITH MYSELF. WE'LL DO THIS TOGETHER.
COME ON. HOLD MY HAND.
OH JESUS. SOPHIE, THIS IS STUPID. THIS IS LIKE THELMA AND LOUISE, ONLY DEAD.
DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH. ARE WE REALLY GONNA DO THIS? ARE WE?
ARE WE GONNA...
NEXT: THE STARS ARE BUT THISTLES...